88. Opening of roads from Kumili to Vandanmettu and from Vandanmettu to Cumbum and the construction of the dispensary building at Kumili.

Mr. Ankur Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) said that the cardamom now had now to arrange for their produce being carried from Vandanmettu to Cumbum by coolies for want of cart roads. The proposed roads from Kumili to Vandanmettu and from Vandanmettu to Cumbum, besides affording traffic convenience to the ryots, would open up the forests in those localities and thereby re-pay the investment on their construction. A dispensary had already been sanctioned at Kumili, it was not yet opened. He prayed that it should be opened immediately at least in a rented building and that another dispensary should also be opened at Vandanmettu.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VI—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) Sanitation.

89. Sanitation.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai, B. A., Bar-at-Law (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that he proposed to deal with the reform of the Sanitary Department and the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee and to suggest certain measures for improving the health of the town of Trivandrum. Dealing with the working of the Sanitary Department, the Member said that the cry of the people was that the department existed in name only and that it did no useful work. An expert full-time Sanitary Officer was at the head of the department. He did not take any interest in promoting the health of the people. Instruction was not imparted to the people as to the causes and the spread of epidemic diseases and the precautionary steps to be taken, by means of occasional pamphlets. Investigations into the causes of the prevalence of certain epidemical diseases in certain localities were not conducted and remedies suggested. The money expended on the establishment of the department was now a mere waste. He said that he was not in favour of the abolition of the department, but would request that the whole should be thoroughly re-organised on the lines he would suggest. The Darbar Physician might be made the *ex-officio* head of the department, as in Mysore, where The junior Surgeon was the *ex-officio* head of the Sanitary Department and Inspector-General of Prisons. He said that many of the members of the Assembly agreed with his proposal and presented a list of their names, with signatures. There should be a hospital or dispensary for each taluk and the medical officer in charge should be made the *ex-officio* sanitary officer for the taluk. He would be responsible for the health of the taluk.

Dewan.—In the case of hospitals or dispensaries where there is only one medical officer, suppose his presence, as sanitary officer, is required in a corner of the taluk and he has also to attend to an urgent medical case at the hospital or elsewhere. How would you meet such a case?

The Member replied that, in most of the hospitals, there would be more than one medical officer. To obviate the difficulty, an Assistant Sanitary Inspector might also be appointed under the medical officer. In case the medical officer found it inconvenient to proceed to the spot as sanitary officer, he might depute the Assistant Sanitary Inspector forthwith and himself proceed to the spot afterwards. A taluk board, consisting of official and non-official members, might also be created, with the medical officer as President. The board might be entrusted with the work of looking after the health of the taluk. The work of vaccination could be conducted under the supervision of the Vaccine Depot Superintendent as of old, also working under the Darbar Physician. The Assistant Sanitary Inspectors working under the medical officers might also push on with the work of vaccination. The District and Assistant Sanitary officers could then be dispensed with. The Member thought that, with the Sanitary Department thus re-organised, the health of the State would considerably improve.

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